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SECRET NOFORN

S E C R E T NO FOREIGN DISSEM NO SIDDEM ABROAD/BACKGROUND USE ONLY

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM

SUBJECT PLANS OF GOVERNMENT TO ASSASSINATE AMBASSADOR LODGE, OTHER HIGH EMBASSY OFFICIALS, AND THICH TRI QUANG, AND BURN THE CHANCERY

DATE OF INFO. 8 OCTOBER 1963

PLACE & DATE ACQ. VIETNAM, SAIGON (8OCTOBER 1963)

APPRISAL SEE BELOW

REPORT NO. TDCS DB-3/657,149

DATE DISTR. 9 OCTOBER 1963

PRECEDENCE PRIORITY

RIELD REPORT NO. FVS 9753

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE A MEDIUM LEVEL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL (C) WITH EXTENSIVE CONTACTS AMONG GOVERNMENT LEADERS.

ITS REPRESENTATIVES. STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, EITHER GVN-SPONSORED OR INDEPENDENTLY ORGANIZED, MAY TAKE PLACE. THE OTHER ASPECTS OF THIS REPORT ARE VIEWED WITH SKEPTICISM.

1. SUMMARY. ON 8 OCTOBER 1963 NGUYEN DUY BACH, CHIEF OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU, PRESIDENTIAL SECURITY SERVICE (SEPES), SAID THAT GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM (GVN) AUGHORITIES WERE PLANNING TO ALLOW A STUDENT DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY CHANCERY UNDER COVER OF WHICH ABOUT 100 GVN AGENTS WOULD ATTACK THE EMBASSY AND ASSASSINATE AMBASSADOR HENRY CABOT LODGE AND OTHER HIGH-RANKING EMBASSY OFFICIALS AFTER WHICH THE CHANCERY WOULD BE SET AFIRE.

2. ON 8 OCTOBER 1963 BACH SAID THAT EARLIER ON THE SAME DAY A DELEGATION OF STUDENTS HAD INFORMED HIM THAT THEY WERE ORGANIZING A DEMONSTRATION WHICH THEY HOPED WOULD TAKE PLACE IN FRONT OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY CHANCERY WITHIN "THE NEXT FEW DAYS" DURING OFFICE HOURS AND PROBABLY IN THE MORNING. THE STUDENTS PLANNED TO PRESENT A STATEMENT TO AMBASSADOR LODGE PROTESTING THE REPRESSION OF STUDENTS AND OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE BY THE GVN. (FIELD COMMENT. FVS-9749, (NOT YET RECEIVED), FROM A FAIRLY RELIABLE SOURCE, REPORTED THE ARREST OF 130 SAIGON STUDENTS ON THE NIGHT OF 7 OCTOBER BY SPECIAL POLICE.) THE STUDENTS ALSO TOLD BACK (AND BACH SAID THAT HE HAD CONFIRMATION FROM OTHER UNIDENTIFIED SOURCES) THAT NGO DINH NHU, MINISTER OF CIVIC ACTION NGO TRONG HIEU, AND COMMANDER

OF EMBASSY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS MELVIN L. MANFULL, AND SPECIAL ASSISTANTS MESSRS. FREDERICK W. FLOTT AND JOHN M. DUNN, AS WELL AS THICH TRI QUANG, BUDDHIST LEADER CURRENTLY LIVING IN THE CHANCERY. THE GVN AGENTSWOULD THEN BURN THE CHANCERY.

3. BACH REMARKED THAT NORMALLY THE GVN PERMITTED NO DEMONSTRATIONS BUT, BECAUSE OF THE PLANNED INFILTRATION OF GVN AGENTS, THE GVN WOULD ALLOW THIS PARTICULAR (PORTION GARBLED - BEING SERVICED)(X) DEMONSTRATION BUT THEY WERE CONFIDENT THAT THEY COULD CONTROL THE SITUATION.

4. (FIELD COMMENT. AN UNTESTED SOURCE REPORTED ON 8 OCTOBER THAT A NUMBER OF POLICE WERE GOING TO MASQUERADE AS STUDENTS AND DEMONSTRATE IN FRONT OF THE UNITED STATES INFORMATION SERVICE BUILDING.)

5. FIELD DISSEM. STATE (AMBASSADOR LODGE), USMACV (GENERAL HARKINS), CINCPAC PACAF ARPAC PACFLT.

6. (X) HEADQUARTERS COMMENTAC MISSING PORTION WILL BE DISSEMINATED ONLY IF IT MATERIALLY AFFECTS THE SENSE OF THIS REPORT.

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